

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD OF TRAVEL . . .

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2010

Travelling the World Since 1951 → Leading Tours Since 1970 → Publishing Newsletters Since 1978

Dear Fellow Traveller:

Every year around this time I reflect on my early travels. It was September 5, 1962, when I set off from England on my world jaunt, never dreaming I'd be away for more than six years. Exactly one month before, the world had been shocked to hear of Marilyn Monroe's sudden death at 36. And I'd just seen Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin's motorcade as he'd made his triumphant tour of England, a year after he'd become the first man in space.

A lot has happened since then. I never intended to be away from home for so long, but I fell in love with so many people and places that I lingered here and there, and of course had to work to save up enough money to carry on. You can read about some of my adventures at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-newsletter.html.

At this time of year I start preparing for another busy travel season . . . all part of my job and the thrill of travelling. At the end of August I head to Peru, followed by Kenya and Tanzania in October and Egypt and Jordan in November.

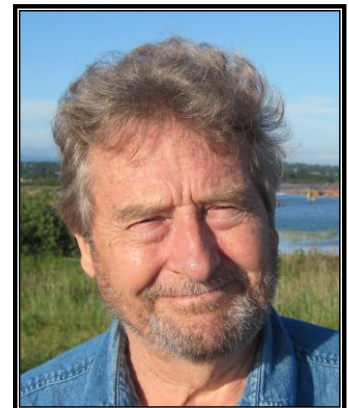
Packing can sometimes be tricky, especially if you're heading to a destination that requires different clothing for various conditions. I have it down to a fine art. I always have certain things ready to be packed—camera, binoculars, first-aid kit, swimsuit. I have a back-up suitcase with duplicate items, in case one gets mislaid or lost on the journey. Amazingly, only a couple of my bags have gone astray in all my travels, once in Costa Rica and once in Iran—which is saying something, with the mileage I've done. And both were delivered to me, completely intact, within a few days. Despite the zillions of suitcases circling the globe, very few get lost or stolen nowadays, thanks to the vigilance of the airlines. They finally got it—our personal effects are important to us!

Do I still get excited about taking off? You bet! And high as a kite when it's somewhere I've never been, or haven't visited for a while. Not everyone in my family shares my passion for travel, though. My wife Yuriko enjoys visiting Japan and Europe occasionally, but she's not what you'd call an intrepid traveller. My older daughter, Julie, is like me in many ways, and will go anywhere at the drop of a hat, while my younger daughter, Jane, is a homebody like her mother. So I understand when somebody tells me his or her spouse doesn't like to travel. It's too bad when spouses don't share the same interests, but sometimes that's the way it is. "Wouldn't do if we were all the same," as my dad used to say.

MY NEW PERSONA—I'm having fun with my new look! I had a moustache for many years, but eventually tired of it and shaved it off. Now I have a beard. I've had mostly positive comments, ranging from "It makes you look older" to "It makes you look younger," "It suits you," and "You look more rugged." Three weeks after beginning to grow it, I read that beards are now popular with women. I've never seen so many bearded men! Since many people expect adventurers and safari operators to be bearded, it fits my image.

I think we should all reinvent ourselves sooner or later. It provides a whole new outlook and, in my case, a new appearance, so I feel a little different. I guess it's like a woman with a new hairdo. I invite you to judge whether I should keep it or shave it off in the end, but for now I'll keep it and have fun.

THE RED BOOK—I've been fortunate to travel with many wonderful people over the years. (And a few undesirable ones!) So many wanted to write some words of appreciation that I decided to provide a book toward the end of each tour or safari, for those who wished to write something in it. The result was what I referred to as *The Red Book*. After a couple of volumes were filled with glowing comments, I stopped passing it around, but have continued to get emails, cards, and letters from appreciative clients.



No, I don't have a *Black Book*, but I do keep a list of people I'd rather not travel with again. There aren't many, for I'm fortunate to attract exceptionally nice people. Not surprisingly, the few I've listed are those nobody can get on with.

MY AFRICAN CONNECTION—As many people know, I'm extremely fond of Africa. It's given me some of the happiest, most exhilarating times of my life. I first set foot on the so-called Dark Continent in November, 1962, and have been madly in love with it ever since. I've lived in East and South Africa and visited the continent often. If I couldn't go back, I'd miss it tremendously. It's part of me. I even get homesick for it when I haven't been for a while.

In the forty years I've been hosting tours to Africa, I've lost count of the people who have excitedly told me their trips to Africa have been the best trips of their lives and that they'd go back in a heartbeat. It doesn't matter which safari countries they've visited—Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia, Botswana, or Namibia. Listening to such comments and seeing their expressions of surprise and delight as they live out their dreams is extremely satisfying.

*A female leopard with cubs
may walk across the track in front of you,
or you may be charged
by a rhino or elephant.*

If you love the natural world, a safari is the ultimate adventure. It's raw, wild, and seductive. Surrounded by nature, one can't help but feel utterly content. On safari you feel so alive . . . every nerve in your body tingles with excitement. I revel in simply driving around in the wilderness, breathing it all in—the exotic trees and shrubs, the birdsong, the various insects and small fry, and the larger, ferocious animals. For the wildlife enthusiast, nothing can equal the first glimpse of an elephant or one of the big cats (lion, leopard, cheetah), from a distance or close up.

We see just about everything on my safaris, including at least 20 lions per trip, and sometimes as many as 80. My records are 90 in Tanzania and 86 in Kenya. A safari is like being on a constant high for two weeks. All your senses are on high alert, you're surrounded by exotic sights and sounds, and the secluded privacy of your room or tent is most romantic. No wonder so many people choose to get married on safari in Africa!

What makes it so stimulating? The constant element of risk, the adrenalin rush as each day brings new surprises. When out on a game drive or walking near your tent or lodge, you never know what you're going to come across. One morning, as you're photographing birds and both small and large animals, a female leopard with cubs may walk across the track in front of you, and in the afternoon you may be charged by a rhino or elephant. These heart-stopping moments will have you clinging to your seat with excitement!

Add to that sumptuous food, fine accommodation in tents and game lodges, and service with a smile by the local population, and the trip becomes unforgettable. Sometimes there's so much happening at once that you don't really appreciate it all until you get home and reflect on it. If you haven't been on safari in Africa, you *must* go soon.

This year I'll lead my final tours to **Kenya/Tanzania** and **Egypt/Jordan**. There are still a few places left on both tours, so if you'd like to join us, avoid disappointment by calling **Felicity Bradshaw** at **Wild Africa Safaris** now.

Last year there was a terrible drought in East Africa. Luckily, it didn't negatively impact our trip to **Kenya and Tanzania**. This year is already much greener and lusher, and East Africa is returning to normal. As usual, we expect to see vast numbers of animals, including the Great Migration of zebra and wildebeest.



I've added some new pictures to my slide show of **Egypt** (www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html). You'll see Egyptologist Fouad Salah, one of the finest tour guides I've ever worked with, posing with one of his pretty colleagues, as well as tour members at Karnak Temple, a whirling Dervish aboard our Nile cruise ship, the pool at one of the lovely places we stay, a camel-back village exploration, and more. If you've always wanted to see Egypt's pyramids and Jordan's Stone City of Petra, seize the moment and book this tour now!

OTHER UPCOMING TOURS—My next **Botswana & Zambia Safari**, departing January 6, has been fully booked for some time—except for one man needed to share a room. If you are (or know of) a single guy, perhaps a widower, who'd like to join this tour and save some money by avoiding the single supplement, please call Felicity at Wild Africa Safaris now.

This special safari is tremendous value for money. Unlike most other safaris, where travel is mostly by road, this trip consists of short hops in light aircraft, getting you to your destinations quickly and providing bird's-eye views. Flying over the Okavango Delta is a magnificent experience. Flying from camp to camp (each hand-picked and offering every comfort) offers a different perspective and allows more time for game drives, boat rides, and relaxing around a swimming pool or on your private verandah.

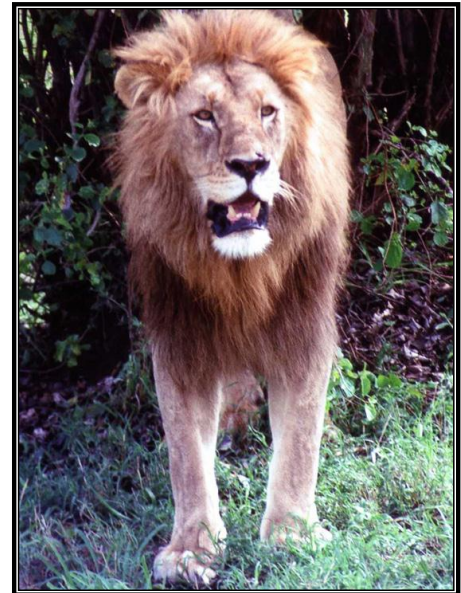
*Optional excursions include
helicopter and ultralight flights
over the thundering Victoria Falls.*

While most of this trip is spent in beautiful Botswana, toward the end we spend a couple of days at Toka Leya, a fabulous camp on the banks of the Zambezi, just outside Livingstone in Zambia. There's much to do, including sunset cruises on this mighty river and guided tours of the thundering Victoria Falls. Optional excursions include walking with lions, riding elephants, bungee jumping, and helicopter—or, if you're more daring, ultralight—flights over the falls. For a taste of what you'll experience, visit my slide show at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html and read the article at www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/botswana-safari.pdf. There's still space on my second Botswana safari, which departs January 18, so please call Wild Africa Safaris and book soon.

Wondering how can I escort both tours? After sending the first group home from Johannesburg airport, I'll have a day or two on my own, then I'll meet the second group at the same airport. Much easier and more economical than flying to and from Vancouver!

Uganda is another sensational destination, with some of Africa's friendliest, gentlest people. It's been overlooked by travellers for far too long. As well as boasting the greatest variety of primates, including gorillas, baboons, and several species of monkey, it has the widest variety of birds in Africa. More than 1,000 species have been recorded, making Uganda a bird-lovers' paradise. You're almost certain to see grebes, pelicans, darters, egrets, spoonbills, guinea fowl, cranes, jacanas, bulbuls, sunbirds, shrikes, orioles, tits, weavers, doves, vultures, eagles, hawks, and no doubt a few flocks of the beautiful grey crowned crane, Uganda's national bird. And now that I know where to find the rare shoebill stork, I'll try my best to make sure you see it.

Uganda also has all of Africa's Big Five (lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo, and rhino) and countless other mammal species in its famous game reserves. Birds galore, all kinds of primates, and tree-climbing lions are just some of the highlights. This unforgettable safari also includes beautiful game lodges and tented camps in spectacular locations. As well as thrilling game drives, we'll enjoy boat rides on Lakes Victoria and Edward and the River Nile, where we'll see crocs and hippos, and the impressive Murchison Falls.



Seeing the mountain gorillas up close is a huge bonus, though not everyone is up to the sometimes strenuous hike to reach them. *Hakuna matata* (no problem), as they say in Swahili. On my last trip, one couple chose not to visit the gorillas, and found plenty of other interesting things to do. Uganda has something to please everyone.

If you're interested in a seeing close encounter with gorillas, don't miss the touching reunion between Damian Aspinall and Kwibi, the gorilla he raised in England and then released into the African wild. The video is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZ-bJFVJ2Po.

If you've been to Kenya and Tanzania and would like to see more of the amazing East Africa, Uganda is the tour for you. An added bonus is that we fly with KLM to Entebbe, with an overnight stopover in Amsterdam on the outbound trip. To be sure of your place, the sooner you contact Wild Africa Safaris, the better!

After our successful tour of **Japan** last spring, we're repeating the tour next May. There are some very good reasons for joining us: few travel companies go there; the price, despite a significant increase, is still reasonable; and we'll go to some extraordinary places few tourists get to see.

I took so many photos on the last trip that I'm updating my Japan slide show (www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html) with lots of new pictures. Yes, that's my wife Yuriko when she was young, absorbed in a guidebook about Japan. Many things about Japan impress travellers today. It's a great feeling to wander around Tokyo, or for that matter any Japanese town or city, at any time of day or night and feel completely safe. A huge plus

in this day and age. And don't worry—you don't have to eat Japanese food. Western dishes are available, including a full English breakfast buffet served every morning on our tour.

To learn more about our tour and the Land of The Rising Sun, please view my slide show and read "Getting Around Japan" at <http://www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/getting-around-japan.pdf>. Call **Samantha Lutchman** of **Collette Vacations** for a brochure and get your name on the growing list as soon as possible. You'll find contact information on page 8. You can also arrange a stopover in Hong Kong on the outbound leg of the trip, if you wish.



Here's a trip you won't want to miss: our tour of **central and eastern Europe** features some of the most alluring cities on the Continent. The names Berlin, Vienna, Prague, Warsaw, and Budapest resonate with history and intrigue. For me, visiting Berlin is like going home. I lived there for most of my teenage years, when I wasn't at boarding school in Wilhelmshaven, on Germany's North Sea coast. I went back as a young soldier, just before the Wall went up, and I've been back a couple of times in recent years. I'm delighted to report that the city remains as exciting as ever and many seasoned travellers consider it one of the most thrilling in Europe.

While I'm only vaguely familiar with the other places on the itinerary, they all have enormous appeal as places I've always wanted to see. I hope they'll fascinate you as much as they do me.

Initial indications are that this tour will sell out quickly, so please contact Samantha at Collette Vacations soon.

NEW TOURS—Casablanca, Marrakesh, Fez, Meknes, Agadir . . . the exotic names of the Arabian kingdom of **Morocco** roll off the tongue, conjuring visions of casbahs, desert landscapes, high mountains, and sandy beaches—perfect ingredients for a trip to remember. Morocco was the first African country I visited, and it left me spellbound. To my youthful eyes, it seemed full of mystery and romance. It still does. If you like Egypt, you'll love Morocco. It's magical! Watch for more information at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-tours.html.

My tour of **Thailand and Laos** will take us to Bangkok, Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, the Golden Triangle, and Luang Prabang. Walk over the bridge on the River Kwai, see a rehab centre for tigers, visit exotic hill-tribe villages, watch elephants at work and play, and enjoy a boat ride down the Mekong River in five-star-hotel luxury . . . plus much more. This fabulous trip to a place I know well should have widespread appeal. For full details, watch for my next newsletter and periodically check www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-tours.html.

*Casablanca, Marrakesh, Fez, Meknes, Agadir . . .
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FUTURE TOURS—In 2012 I'm planning tours to **Botswana** in January, **South Africa** in March, **Japan** in May, **Turkey** in September, and **Namibia** in November. Over the next couple of years I intend to visit **Cambodia, Vietnam, Greece, Ireland, China, India, Ecuador, Australia, New Zealand, Ethiopia, Zambia,** and **Kenya** and **Tanzania** separately. Stay tuned for details.

SUMMER READING—I've been a bookworm since childhood, often with two books on the go at once. The last book I read was *Dickens of the Mounted*, a purported series of long-lost letters by Francis (Frank) Dickens, a son of Charles Dickens. It's "edited" (actually, written) by Canadian humorist Eric Nicol. Not many people are aware that Frank Dickens served with the North-West Mounted Police from 1874 to 1886. *Dickens of the Mounted* is an amusing book, the narrator fumbling and falling through life, mostly in the Canadian interior of the 1870s and 1880s. His less-than-successful police career, marked by "recklessness, laziness, and love of drinking," includes meetings with such luminaries as Sitting Bull, Louis Riel, and the legendary Mountie Sam Steele. The book is fascinating and hilarious. Sadly, Dickens died of a heart attack in 1886, not long after leaving the NWMP. He was 42.

The other book I've recently enjoyed is *A Year in the World: Journeys of a Passionate Traveller* by Frances Mayes, author of *Under the Tuscan Sun*. I won't go into detail, lest I spoil it for you—buy or borrow a copy—but suffice to say this is travel writing at its most evocative. The author tells how she and her husband spent a year exploring Spain, the Greek Isles, Morocco, Spain, Portugal, Burgundy, Turkey, southern Italy, and the British Isles. If this book doesn't have you hopping on the next plane to Europe or North Africa, nothing will. Admittedly, it's more about fine food and eating than travelling, but it's still a great read.

MAN'S BEST FRIEND—As promised, here's a photo of **Daisy the pug** and **Joffre the miniature dachsie**, who I get to look after and take for walks every so often. Daisy belongs to my daughter Jane. Her birthday is the same day as mine, but she's only three! Joffre belongs to my daughter Julie. He's been blind since birth. Now, at seven, he's doing well. The vet informs us that dogs have such keen senses of smell and hearing that they can manage quite well without sight, and Joffre is living proof. He has a sixth sense, never bumping into trees or walls, and he runs and plays like all dogs. Both Daisy and Joffre are a joy to be with, and I love them dearly.



In an essay called "A Woman's Best Friend," *Fear of Flying* and *Fear of Fifty: A Midlife Memoir* author Erica Jong writes, "I could tell you the story of my life through the dogs I have loved. I could tell you the story of the losses in my life through their deaths. Dogs come into our lives to teach us about love and loyalty. They depart to teach us about loss. We try to replace them, but never quite succeed. A new dog never replaces an old dog; it merely expands the heart. If you have loved many dogs, your heart is very big." I haven't loved a lot of dogs, but I have loved a lot of animals. The only dog I ever lived with was a big English sheepdog named Jigger, when I was a toddler. According to my mother, I was inconsolable for a week after he died.

SOME THOUGHTS ON AGING—You may think, after reading one or two newsletters, that I'm obsessed with aging. I'm not. But I must admit that reaching 70 last year came as a bit of a shock, because I never thought I'd reach that milestone. It also came very fast. For years I never thought about age—I was too busy making my way in the world. I got married and became preoccupied with making a living and raising a family. I didn't notice time rushing by.

If this is the beginning of old age, I don't feel it, nor apparently do I look it. Most days I feel twenty years younger. I've been blessed with good health and high energy. A spirit of adventure and an inquisitive mind (together with a lot of grit and determination) have kept me young, and I still have my schoolboy enthusiasm for faraway places.

*As long as you're healthy and reasonably fit,
you're welcome to join my tours.*

Fortunately, there are advantages to growing older. The years bring experience and wisdom. There's no substitute for experience, no matter what kind! And age has its privileges. I now get free or reduced bus and ferry passes and 10 to 20 percent off at many stores on certain days. I also get called "Sir" by almost everyone under 50! Aging is relative: to an 80-year-old, I'm still "a boy."

Being a mature person also gives me an advantage in dealing with my clients, many of whom are now seniors themselves. I can relate to them more easily than before, and I know and understand their requirements. Interestingly, 20 years ago I rarely had a client over the age of 80, while today I get quite a few, because people are healthier and live longer. Although most of my clients are still 50 to 75, quite a few are older.

There's no age limit (and no retirement!) for tour managers. I have a feeling nobody cares about my age, as long as I'm up to the job! I'm more qualified now than I ever was. And there are no age restrictions on my tours. If you're healthy and reasonably fit, and prepared to enjoy yourself, you're welcome to join us. When you travel with me, you'll get a life-enriching tour that's not only worth every penny, but priceless. Take advantage of my vast experience!

Whichever way you read them, I hope my newsletters motivate you to travel and do things you've never considered before. Life's so short that you are doing yourself—and perhaps others—a disservice if you don't! And please share this newsletter with friends and family members. Then come and join in the fun and adventure of a David Skillan hosted tour. All you have to do is relax and enjoy yourself.

Safari njema (Swahili for travel safely)!

David (Around the World in Eighty Months) Skillan
Incurable romantic, itinerant vagabond, and happy wanderer . . . ➔

DAVID SKILLAN'S WORLD

An Overview of Some Upcoming Tours and Safaris Presented in Cooperation with Wild Africa Safaris and Collette Vacations

KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI

Departs October 3, 2010 → 16 days → \$8,280 per person (sharing)

The ultimate adventure . . . the two most famous safari destinations in Africa . . . a romantic journey that many dream about, but few experience. This tour includes the finest game lodges and tented camps, splendid game-rich wilderness, and the magical Serengeti Plains, Ngorongoro Crater, Mounts Kenya and Kilimanjaro, Maasai Mara, Aberdares, Lakes Nakuru, Naivasha, and Manyara, and the Olduvai Gorge (the Cradle of Mankind). Take a balloon ride over the East African plains and visit a Maasai village, the Karen Blixen Museum, and more. The perfect tour for those who yearn to see a wildlife spectacle unrivalled anywhere in the world. October coincides with the great migration of wildebeest and zebra—often called the greatest show on earth. Imagine warm, sunny days, spectacular scenery, and amazing experiences. They're all yours on this incomparable trip! Learn more about it by visiting www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/african-safari.pdf. This tour can be extended to conclude with the island of Zanzibar or Kenya's Coral Coast. ***Don't miss out on this fabulous trip!***

EGYPT & JORDAN TOUR

Departs November 4, 2010 → 16 days → \$6,821 per person (sharing)

Join us in the land of pharaohs, mystery, and enchantment! This exciting tour includes Cairo, Memphis, Aswan, Luxor, the Pyramids of Giza, the Valley of the Kings, a four-night Nile cruise, and the famous temples of Abu Simbel, Philae, Edfu, Kom-Ombo, and Karnak. Visit the renowned Egyptian Museum, ride a camel, watch a belly-dance display, haggle for souvenirs, take a horse-and-buggy ride, sail in a felucca, and descend into King Tut's tomb. You'll be transfixed by the wildly beautiful country of Jordan, as we follow in the footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia, explore the World Heritage Site of Wadi Rum, see the ancient city of Jerash (the largest Roman ruins in the world, and reminiscent of Turkey's Ephesus), float in the Dead Sea, explore the Crusader castle at Kerak, and visit the extraordinary stone city of Petra, one of the newly named Seven Wonders of the World. Shop for exquisite jewellery, beautiful hand-woven carpets, and the latest styles in leather jackets. See pictures from previous tours at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html ***If you've always wanted to see one of the world's greatest ancient civilizations, this is the trip for you!***

BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI

Departs January 6, 2011 → 14 days → \$9,195 per person (sharing)

Departs January 18, 2011 → 14 days → \$9,195 per person (sharing)

Adventure in style and comfort on this exclusive connoisseur's tour, which is limited to just 12 participants. Described by aficionados as "Africa's Gem," Botswana has become a favoured destination among seasoned travellers. Masses of wildlife roam the woodlands, savannahs, plains, and wetlands of this sparsely populated country, including many species of antelope (nyala, waterbuck, kudu, sable, eland, tsessebe, lechwe, impala, and sitatunga), hyena, jackal, bat-eared fox, wild dog, wild cat, giraffe, zebra, hippo, and of course all of Africa's Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo). In this remote, peaceful region of Africa, we stay at the finest places, where food and service are second to none. Accommodations are in luxurious tented camps . . . travel is by specially chartered light aircraft . . . game viewing is by boat and open safari vehicles. Visit the Moremi Game Reserve, Vumbura Plains, Linyanti, world-famous Okavango Delta, and breathtaking Victoria Falls. To learn more about this superb tour, go to www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/botswana-safari.pdf. ***Call now to reserve your place!***

UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI

Departs March 9, 2011 → 18 days → \$8,695 per person (sharing)

Often referred to as "the Pearl of Africa," Uganda is a lush, green, tropical land with some of Africa's friendliest people and a safari circuit that encompasses breathtaking landscapes. See Africa's Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo) and hundreds of other animals, including four different species of jackal, pygmy antelope, Nile crocodile, bush pig, giant forest hog, the Uganda cob (Uganda's national antelope), and of course the endangered mountain gorilla. Uganda is a birdwatchers' paradise, boasting the

largest concentration of birds in all of Africa—more than 1,000 species. Our tour includes Lake Victoria (the largest lake in Africa), the Ruwenzoris (the Mountains of the Moon), and the acclaimed national parks of Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth, Kibale and Bwindi (the rainforests that are home to the mountain gorillas), and Ngamba Island (a sanctuary for chimpanzees). All this and much more! Limited to 14 participants. To learn more, go to <http://www.skillansafaris.com/newsletters/uganda.pdf>.

Plan now to participate!

HIDDEN TREASURES OF JAPAN

Departs May 12, 2011 → 14 days → \$6,750 per person (sharing)

This journey through rich history and traditional culture is like no other tour you've ever taken!

Visit Japan's ancient first capital at Nara and the vibrant metropolis of Tokyo, as well as Hakone, Nagano, Takayama, Kanazawa, Otsu, and Kyoto. Stroll along the Ginza, wander through stunning Japanese gardens, explore Meiji Shrine and Matsumoto Castle, and enjoy a boat ride that provides spectacular views of Mount Fuji, Japan's highest mountain. Travel on the bullet train, relax in hot-spring baths, see traditional farmhouses with thatched roofs, learn the art of origami, and participate in both traditional and modern Japanese entertainment. This one-of-a-kind tour of the legendary Land of the Rising Sun takes place during the season of spring blossoms. An outbound stopover in Hong Kong can also be arranged; inquire when you book. See the pictures from our 2010 tour at www.skillansafaris.com/david-skillan-slide-show.html. **Consider joining us!**



CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Departs September 3, 2011 → 15 days → \$4,595 per person (sharing)

Join us on a leisurely tour through many of the European spots you've always wanted to see! This must-do tour includes all the major sights in the fascinating cities of Berlin, Potsdam, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Kraków, and Warsaw. Visit Berlin's Charlottenburg Palace, Brandenburg Gate, and Checkpoint Charlie, Prague's old Jewish Quarter and Hradčany Castle, Vienna's Schönbrunn Palace, Budapest's Heroes' Square, Częstochowa's medieval Jasna Góra Monastery (home of the revered Black Madonna painting), Kraków's Wieliczka Salt Mine (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and the notorious concentration camp at Auschwitz . . . plus much more! **Plan now to join us next September, when the summer crowds have gone!**

MAGNIFICENT MOROCCO

Departs October 5, 2011 → 14 days → Price TBA

Casablanca, Marrakesh, Fez, Meknes, Agadir . . . the exotic cities of this Arabian kingdom await you! Casbahs, desert landscapes, high mountains, sandy beaches—Morocco is a land of mystery and romance. **Plan now to join us on this magical journey!**

THAILAND & LAOS TOUR

Departs November 2, 2011 → 15 days → Price TBA

Visit Bangkok, Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, the Golden Triangle, and Luang Prabang in five-star luxury! Walk over the bridge on the River Kwai, see a rehab centre for tigers, visit exotic hill-tribe villages, watch elephants at work and play, float down the Mekong River, and more. **Put this trip on your calendar now!**

Globetrotter David Skillan is a writer, photographer, and tour leader par excellence. He has travelled, lived, and worked all over the world, including the Far East, Australasia, Africa, and Latin America. He's had a love affair with travel and adventure since childhood.

Since 1970, David has hosted more than 200 tours abroad, including more than 100 to Africa. He spends three to four months of each year travelling the world. Having seen it both the easy way and the hard way, he loves sharing his hard-earned international experience with others.

David has been publishing articles and newsletters about his life, travels, and tours since 1978. →

EXCLUSIVE

The David Skillan Travel Collection

A Special Series of the Finest Personally Escorted Tours and Safaris

2010				
October 3	KENYA & TANZANIA SAFARI	16 days	\$8,280	Wild Africa Safaris
November 4	EGYPT & JORDAN TOUR	16 days	\$6,821	Wild Africa Safaris
2011				
January 6	BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI	14 days	\$9,195	Wild Africa Safaris
January 18	BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA SAFARI	14 days	\$9,195	Wild Africa Safaris
March 9	UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI	18 days	\$8,695	Wild Africa Safaris
May 12	HIDDEN TREASURES OF JAPAN	14 days	\$6,750	Collette Vacations
September 3	CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	15 days	\$4,595	Collette Vacations
October 5	MAGNIFICENT MOROCCO	14 days	TBA	Wild Africa Safaris
November 2	THAILAND & LAOS TOUR	15 days	TBA	Collette Vacations
<p><i>Tour prices are per person, in Canadian dollars. Prices include all international and domestic flights (round-trip from Vancouver, Canada, though you can make your own flight arrangements and meet your tour), fine accommodations, most meals, and all sightseeing, as outlined in the respective itineraries. Taxes are extra. All dates, itineraries, and prices are subject to change. Most tours can be extended at the ends.</i></p>				

David Skillan's tours are marketed exclusively by Wild Africa Safaris and Collette Vacations. For full details, including the itinerary and booking information, please contact the tour operator indicated in the schedule above.

<p>Wild Africa Safaris Suite #301 123 East 15th Street North Vancouver, BC V7L 2P7 Canada 800-991-6111 or 604-519-1610 africa@wildafricasafari.com www.wildafricasafari.com</p>	<p>Collette Vacations #6A 5761 Glover Road Langley, BC V3A 8M8 Canada 866-358-0333 slutchman@collettevacations.ca www.collettevacations.ca</p>
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Call now for colour brochures and detailed itineraries! →

Excerpts from Recent Emails, Cards, and Letters



“Japan was wonderful—our fourth trip with you, after Egypt, South Africa, and Kenya and Tanzania. It’s a gorgeous country with such clean, safe cities and such beautiful gardens and temples. It was a perfect tour in more ways than one. And those Toto toilets! We are saving up to get one—or two!”

~Lois & Norm B. (New Westminster, BC)

“Please accept my sincere thanks for the wonderful tour of Egypt and Jordan. I enjoyed every moment! You have us hooked on your tours, so please hold four seats on the September 2011 tour of central and eastern Europe.”

~Ida F. (Aldergrove, BC)

“Last September’s trip to Uganda and our earlier safari to Kenya with you in 2006 were among the highlights of our lives. We can enthusiastically recommend them to anyone who might be thinking of a trip to Africa!”

~John & Judy A. (North Saanich, BC)

*I completely understand
what draws you back to Africa.
A friend and I are about to sign up
for your March Uganda adventure.*

“Loved your latest newsletter, as always. They seem to get better and more interesting each time. I prefer the hard copy, as there is something special about getting it in the mail and then leaving it around the house to pick up from time to time. Looking forward to the tour of central and eastern Europe next year. It will be my fifth tour with you!”

~Sally S. (Edmonton, AB)

“We have gone through the 2000-plus photos we took in Japan, and they all prove we had a really good time. It added so much to the trip having both you and Yuriko along. A big *arigato!*”

~Anne W. & Brian M. (Calgary, AB)

“I need your help! I am planning on going to South Africa for a conference, and need to know of a reliable tour operator that could shepherd me and a friend around. I am nervous, as I had a disastrous trip to Beijing last year. Any suggestions would be appreciated. Please note the change in my email address. I appreciate receiving your newsletters and notices of upcoming tours to consider—please keep me on your list.”

~Pat M. (Ottawa, ON)

“Many thanks for the newsletters; we always enjoy receiving them, and have so many good memories of our tours with you. Attached is our email address.”

~Fran & Howard E. (Qualicum Beach, BC)

“I went on your Kenya Wildlife Safari in October of 1993, and it was one of the best trips of my life. I completely understand what draws you back to Africa. A friend and I are about to sign up for your March Uganda adventure.”

~Susan M. (Vancouver, BC)

“We loved your tour of Japan and had a wonderful time. As our first trip with you, we thought it was excellent, and we’re telling people who we know would enjoy it. We definitely want to go on another tour with you, to Africa, so please keep us posted.”

~Gwen C. & Jim M. (West Vancouver, BC)

“My son John and I are both elated to be participating in the Botswana wildlife adventure. I have made eight trips with you from 1993 to 2006—to Kenya, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, South Africa, Japan, Thailand and South Korea, Russia and Finland, Egypt, and Kenya and Tanzania. Thanks for the memories!”

~John A. (Vancouver, BC)

(John is a well-known retired doctor who has signed up with his eldest son for our next Botswana safari. ~DS)

“Thank you for sending your newsletters and keeping me up to date. It’s amazing how you continue to take so many trips. I have many happy memories of our times with you.”

~Doris S. (Chemainus, BC)

(Doris and her late husband Frank were among the first to “discover” me. They took several of my tours. ~DS) →

This newsletter comes to you with our compliments.

It is intended to create a greater awareness of the world we live in, promote worldwide travel and tourism, and motivate you to get up and go.

Enjoy yourself. It's later than you think! →



With love from the beautiful Mweya Safari Lodge in Uganda . . .

Points to Ponder . . .

“Don’t be afraid to go out on a limb. That’s where the fruit is.”

~Harry S. Truman

“Sometimes the best helping hand you can give is a good, firm push.”

~Joann Thomas

“Don’t confuse fame with success. Madonna is one; Helen Keller is the other.”

~Erma Bombeck

“A friend is one who walks in when others walk out.”

~Walter Winchell

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“Adventure is the champagne of life!”

~G. K. Chesterton